

MOORE COUNTY BEGINS SMALL AREA 'A' PLANNING PROCESS



Help Plan Area 'A'

Moore County needs some committed volunteers to help develop a new land-use plan for an area that includes Seven Lakes, West End, Eagle Springs, Jackson Springs and the unincorporated area around Foxfire. The project is expected to take two years to complete and will help shape development in this part of the county for years to come. You can participate at a number of levels, depending on your ability to commit your time and talents. Start by going to one of the four upcoming community informational meetings and then consider applying to serve on the steering committee.

COMMUNITY MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, May 22, West Pine Middle School,
Hwy 211, 7:00 - 8:30pm

Tuesday, May 23, Eagle Springs Fire Department,
Hwy 211, 10:00 - 11:30am

Monday, June 5, West End Elementary School,
Hwy 211, 7:00 - 8:30pm

Tuesday, June 6, Jackson Springs Community Center,
447 Mill Road, 10:00 - 11:30am

Call 947-5010 for more information about directions to the meeting locations. Select one site or attend all of the meetings to meet residents that share your interests. The format for these informational meetings will be the same at each site.

The steering committee that will develop the new plan will be made up of 12 to 18 people, mostly people who live or work in the area, drawn from a wide range of neighborhoods, ethnic groups, age brackets and occupations. You must fill out an application to be considered, and the Board of Commissioners will select the committee members later this summer. One thing they will all have in common is a strong interest in doing what's best for our area, and in working together to plan for our future and the future of our children and grandchildren who will live here after we are gone.

What is Small Area Planning?

Moore County is a large county that includes a lot of diversity. Seven Lakes is different from High Falls and Lobelia is not like Eastwood. The smaller areas within the county differ from one another in a number of ways:

- ❖ Some are more developed; some less developed.
- ❖ Some are becoming more residential; others more industrial; while others continue to be used for cropland or timber.
- ❖ Some areas have a greater potential for growth and development because they are near major roads, served by existing water and sewer systems, or close to existing cities or towns.
- ❖ Development in some areas is limited by a lack of water, soils unsuitable for septic systems, or nearby industrial or agricultural uses.

- ❖ People who live in some areas would welcome more development, and in other areas, folks would like things to stay pretty much as they are.
- ❖ These varying opinions may also be present among residents in Small Area A. That is why public input to the plan is so important! Finding common ground is essential for long range planning efforts to be effective. The county-wide land use plan has served the county well, but it can't take into account all these differences in neighborhoods and communities across the county.

Small Area Planning will divide the county up into smaller areas and look at land use planning on a smaller scale. The Small Area Planning process will help residents and landowners in our various communities plan ahead, think about what will influence growth in those neighborhoods, and come to some consensus about what they want their community to look like 20 to 25 years in the future.

What Would You Like Your Community to Be in 25 Years?

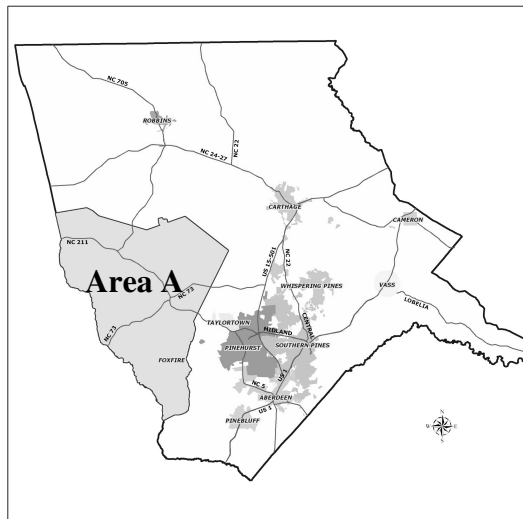
That vision of the future, developed in a public process and ultimately approved by the Planning Board and Board of Commissioners, will shape policy decisions for years to come. It will help make sure that areas grow and change in the ways the people who live in those areas want them to grow and change.

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WHAT IS "AREA A?"

Area A is the community that the planning staff, Planning Board, and Board of Commissioners have selected to be the subject of the first Moore County Small Area Plan.

Moore County



With West End and Seven Lakes at its center, Area A covers 100 square miles. Its boundaries correspond to those of the West End School District. It includes both Eagle Springs and Jackson Springs and surrounds the Village of Foxfire. **It is the fastest growing area in Moore County, which is one of the reasons it was selected for the**

first Small Area Plan. Through the heart of it runs the soon-to-be widened NC Highway 211, one of the major thoroughfares carrying visitors into Moore County. It's a big area and it is important to find out what people out past Eagle Springs have in common with people in Seven Lakes. Many of the concerns may be similar.

Why Should Such A LARGE AREA BE PART OF A SMALL AREA PLAN?

It's a fair question, but the pace of growth around Seven Lakes and Foxfire and the planned widening of NC Highway 211 mean this whole area will be under continual development pressure. It makes sense for residents in the whole area to think together about how they would like to shape that growth. A series of public meetings will be part of the planning process to build consensus.

How Will the SMALL AREA PLANNING PROCESS Work?

Once the Board of Commissioners appoints a Steering Committee for Area A, the committee's most important job is finding out about the concerns, interests, needs and wants of the people who live, work, or own land in the area.

In order to gather this kind of input, the committee will hold a series of open meetings

early this Fall, mostly in the evening, at four locations convenient to people in Area A. The committee and planning staff will take information gathered from these meetings, study the concerns raised, and begin to formulate a vision that reflects the needs and wants of the residents. Some questions or issues will require additional data-gathering. The planning staff will call on the expertise of representatives from state or county agencies, like the Department of Transportation, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Moore County Public Utilities or Moore County Schools.

Once the staff and steering committee have completed this work, they will come back to the community for another series of public meetings, presenting the results of their work and gathering additional input. It will be incorporated into a final document that will be presented to the Planning Board, and, ultimately, to the Moore County Board of Commissioners for approval. Once approved, the contents of that planning document will become policy, influencing future county decisions about development in Area A.

Help PLAN AREA 'A' Today!

Go to www.moorecountync.gov for more information about small area planning or call the Moore County Planning Department at 910-947-5010.

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